Claims

What is claimed is:

5   1.   A method for repairing an image, comprising the steps
of:
        presenting a user with said image; and
        presenting said user with an image defect matte that
allows said user to graphically specify one or more changes to be
10 made to said image.

2.   The method of claim 1, wherein said image defect matte
is an array of elements, each of said elements assuming one of
several possible values representing different degrees of repair.

3.   The method of claim 1, wherein each element of said
image defect matte corresponds to one or more pixels in said
image.

4.   The method of claim 2, wherein said image defect matte
indicates each of said different possible values using a color
mapping.

5.   The method of claim 2, wherein said image defect matte
25 indicates a region of said image having one of said different
possible values using a boundary outline.

6.   The method of claim 1, wherein said changes to be made
to said image are not implemented until initiated by said user.

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7.   The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of
providing one or more graphical tools that allow said user to

modify said image defect matte before said changes are made to said image.

8.   The method of claim 1, wherein said image defect matte indicates portions of an original image that have been repaired in one or more previous iterations.

9.   The method of claim 1, wherein said image defect matte indicates portions of an original image having one or more proposed modifications for a current iteration.

10.   The method of claim 1, wherein said one or more changes to be made to said image is a further repair of a selected region of said image.

11.   The method of claim 10, further comprising the step of maintaining said selected region of said image for a subsequent or previous frame to repair a steady defect in said image.

12.   The method of claim 1, wherein said one or more changes to be made to said image is a cancellation of a previous repair of a selected region of said image.

13.   The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of prioritizing said image based on a defect metric that quantifies a degree of defects in said image.

14.   A system for repairing an image, comprising:

a memory that stores computer-readable code; and

a processor operatively coupled to said memory, said processor configured to implement said computer-readable code, said computer-readable code configured to:

present a user with said image; and

present said user with an image defect matte that allows said user to graphically specify one or more changes to be made to said image.

15. The system of claim 14, wherein said image defect matte is an array of elements, each of said elements assuming one of several possible values representing different degrees of repair.

16. The system of claim 14, wherein each element of said image defect matte corresponds to one or more pixels in said image.

17. The system of claim 14, wherein said processor is further configured to provide one or more graphical tools that allow said user to modify said image defect matte before said changes are made to said image.

18. The system of claim 14, wherein said one or more changes to be made to said image is a further repair of a selected region of said image and wherein said processor is further configured to maintain said selected region of said image for a subsequent or previous frame to repair a steady defect in said image.

19. The system of claim 14, wherein said processor is further configured to prioritize said image based on a defect metric that quantifies a degree of defects in said image.

20. An article of manufacture for repairing an image, comprising:

a computer readable medium having computer readable code means embodied thereon, said computer readable program code means comprising:

a step to present a user with said image; and

a step to present said user with an image defect matte that allows said user to graphically specify one or more changes to be made to said image.

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